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FREE INDIA

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Pre-Election Scene In Tamil Nadu

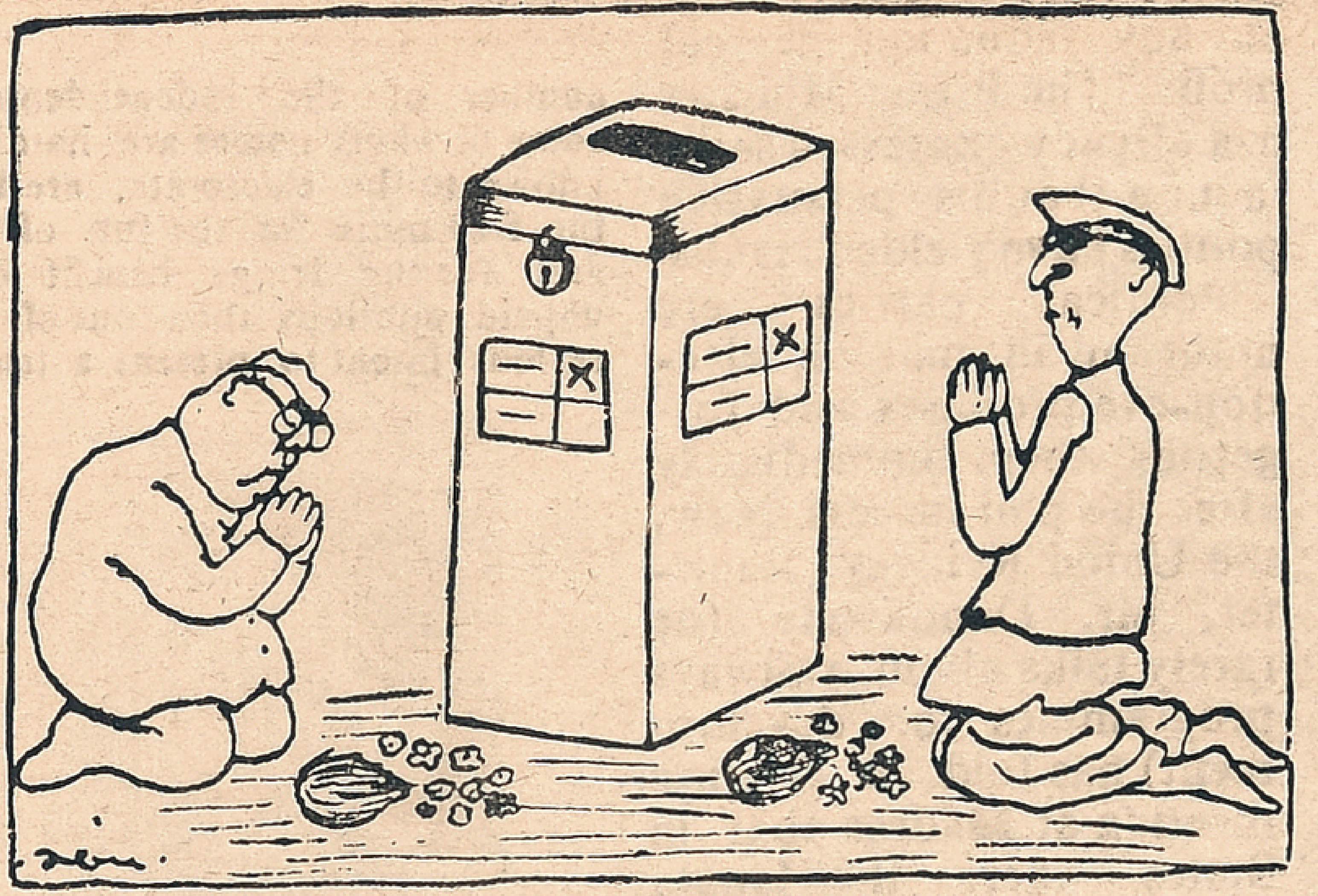
BY "CHITRAGUPTA"

Public interest in the Assembly elections seems distinctly less keen than what it was in the Lok Sabha elections in March. This is the position at least as far as

Y. B. Chavan

one could judge from private discussions as well as public debates. The campaign has not obviously picked up its real momentum as yet. It may, in the next week. It has to, for the dates of polling in Tamil Nadu are June 12 and 14.

There are understandable reasons for this comparative lack of interest. For one thing, the March election came as a surprise, when the people in general were not sure what was going to happen to the country. There were quite a few who were wondering if there would be any elections at all, and whether the March one was going to be the last. For another, no one was sure about the pattern of voting, not even those who had ordered the election. The basic issue was presented in such clear cut terms as Democracy versus Dictatorship The re was a frantic attempt on the part of the democratic opposition to present a united front against the ruling party, which led to alignments in the nature of a polarisation of parties, if not of political forces, based on ideology. The Congress-CPI-AIADMK alliance on the one side and the Janata-CPM-DMK alliance on the other had helped in avoiding an infructuous splitting of the vote.



—*Courtesy Indian Express*

ALIGNMENTS

This time, the old alliances had broken up, except for the Congress and the CPI, which have decided to stick together as the proverbial companions in distress. The AIADMK emerging as the Big Brother, having won 18 of the 20 seats it contested, began to dictate terms, which were found unacceptable by the Congress even in its chastened and subdued mood. In the other alliance, the Janata had found the earliest opportunity to break loose from its old ally, the DMK, which had proved more of a liability to it than an asset. As for the CPM, the Janata, flushed with its run-away victories in the North, was reluctant to concede the 20 seats demanded by the former. This offered just the right chance for the AIADMK to welcome it with open arms, so that its own plank might be strengthened on the organised labour front, agrarian as well as industrial.

Morarji Desai

Out of a total of 234 seats, the number of candidates being set up by the various parties is as follows : Janata - 233 ; DMK 230 ; AIADMK - 200 ; Congress 198 ; CPI - 32 ; CPM - 20 ; Forward Block - 5 ; and Republican Party of India - 5. There are as many as 467 independents trying their luck, which brings the total number of contesting candidates to nearly 1400 (1390 to be exact). This works out to an average of nearly half-a-dozen candidates for a seat, the highest number since the first elections, after Independence, as could be seen from the following figures :- 1952 - 4.5 ; 1957 - 3.9 ; 1962 - 3.9 ; 1967 - 3.3 ; 1971 - 3.2 and 1977 - 5.9.

NO STRAIGHT CONTESTS

The number of candidates is so high, with independents so many, that splitting and wastage of votes can certainly not be avoided. For example, a total number of 93 candidates is contesting a total of 14 seats in the City of Madras. Quite a good

(Contd. on page 2)

C. Subramaniam

K. Brahmananda Reddy

THUS SPAKE THE MAHATMA

Let us pray that God may cleanese our hearts of pettiness, meanness and deceit and He will surely answer our prayers. Many have always turned to that unfailing souice of strength.

ASOKA SCENTED BETEL NUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY June 5, 1977

SUCCESS IN SIGHT

Congress is picking up strength in almost all the North Indian States, where it was completely routed in the Lok Sabha elections.

Most of the wavering and anti-social Congressmen have left the party and, fortunetely they have admitted into the Janata Party. They have already started playing havoc in the baby party.

People are in no mood now to listen to the horror stories of the emergency. Parrot like, the Janata men are talking about Maruthi affair and some stray cases of excesses with regard to family planning. They have nothing constructive to offer.

The rout of the Congress dazed even some top guys in the party and they—some of them who had occupied seats of power—started babbling about excesses.

The Janata anxiety to set up so many enquiry commissions—the Home Minister himself must have lost count of them—has exp s-ed its real intention to hold on to power merely by black mailing. It has no economic programmes to offer.

The prices have been allowed to increase to such dizzy heights that even the industrial tycoons have seen the danger and offered a price freeze. They know very well, that any further rise will lead to falling demands. And the rise is so much that they may condescend to cut it a little (as if in response to the call of the Prime Minister) without any reduction in real profit. The Prime Minister has already expressed satisfaction that his persuasive politics have yielded results.

Political parties are notorious in making election-eve promises and forgetting them immediately after the poll success. Now, the Union Railway Minister, Mr. Dandawate (he rarely talks about railways programmes for development) has told an election meeting at Madras that in States where the Janata Party was voted to power, the sales tax would be abolished. On matters relating to labour, in which they are directly concerned, he Mr. Fernandez and Labour Minister Varma require more time to consider.

People have seen through the Janata game. If Congressmen can stand united and work honestly for their candidates, success is within their reach. Congressmen at the base are all right. Only the leaders create confusion. We believe the leaders will be able to read the real feelings of the people and work for their welfare.

WHEN A HOME MINISTER THREATENED HE COULDN'T GUARANTEE PRESIDENT'S SAFETY

APRIL 30, 1977:

* 10 a.m. The Union Cabinet meets to study the situation. Expert legal opinion is sought on what can be done to the President. The much maligned 42nd amendment to constitution makes it mandatory for the President to act according to the advice of the Council of Ministers.

* 11 a.m. Mr Jatti is still adamant. Mr. Caran Singh and Law Minister, Mr. Shanti Bhushan visit Mr. Jatti and argue their case. No luck. "I have a duty to preserve, protect and defend the constitution in terms of the oath of office," he tells his callers. At the end of the short discussion, he says that he wants to wait till the Supreme Court has given its reasons for dismissing the writ petitions. The Ministers leave.

* 12 noon. News comes that the Congress, which still is the majority party in the Rajya Sabha, is ready to support Janata candidate for Presidentship provided elections are not held in U.P. and Bihar. The two states went to pools only in 1974. The offer meets with little response.

* 1 p.m. Pressure builds upon Mr. Jatti. Over 800 people demonstrate outside his residence on Maulana Azad Road shouting slogans like" Adalat Ka Faisalo Mano, Janata Ka Sammon Karo," and "sign or resign." A Group from Karnataka stages a sit-in out-side the gates. Tempers run high. The police hold back angry demonstrators marching to Mr. Jatti's house.

* 3 p.m. Mr. Charan Singh informs the President that the law and order situation near his residence was fast deteriorating. He implies that he can't assure his safety. Mr Jatti reacts coolly

* 4 p.m. Police reinforcements rushed to Maulana Azad road area which was entirely barricaded.

* 5 p.m. The Union Cabinet meets again. It decides to send a letter to Mr. Jatti explaining what the duties of the President were as laid down in the 42nd amendment. The letter signed by Mr. Morarji Desai carries the ultimatum: If Mr. Jatti does not sign the proclamation by 8 p.m. he would go on the air and announce his resignation. Fresh elections will be held.

* 6 p.m. Mr. Jatti receives the letter. He knows Morarji too well. So understands the tone of the letter. He feels that he has been cornered.

* 7 p.m. The acting President calls for the papers. Another reluctant shuffling. Another look at the papers which will decide the fate of nine Chief Ministers and nine State governments. He is alone in the office. He calls Mr. Y. B. Chavan in Satara (Maharashtra) on phone for consultations.

* 7-30 p.m. Mr. Jatti signs the nine proclamations.

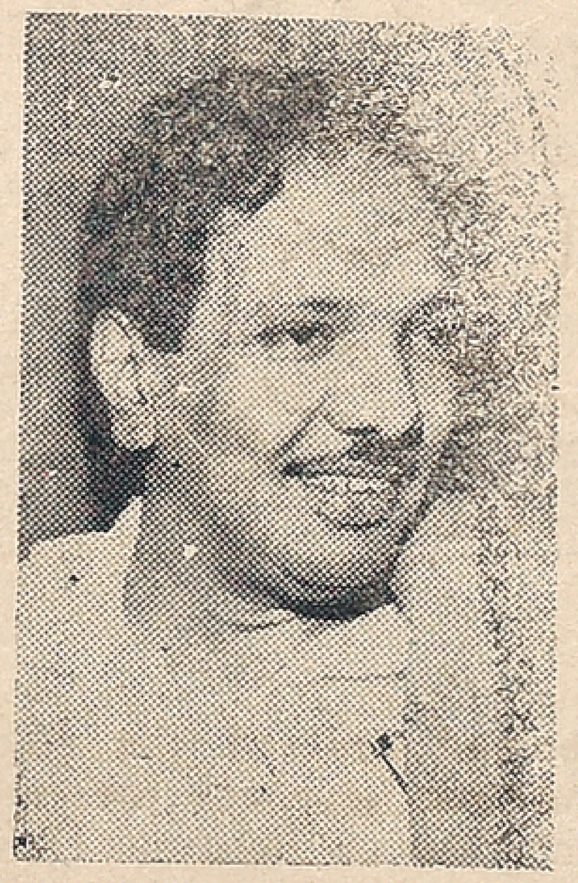
* 8 p.m. A sigh of relief everywhere, except in Mr. Jatti's residence. It can't be otherwise. No Indian President had found this august office so hot and so uncomfortable. He is the only President who has faced opposition against his continuance. Top Janata leaders like Madhu Limaye had called upon him to resign. There is also a contempt of court case against him in the Delhi High Court.

— ONLOOKER, BOMBAY

From Page 1

Pre-Election Scene In....

number of the independents, some of whose names are hardly known to the electorate, are in the fray more for the fun of it and for the fringe benefit of unpaid publicity than out of a serious intent to present a trial



M. Karunanidhi

of strength, of which they know they have next to nothing. It remains to be seen how many of these 467 or so can manage to get back their deposits. At least one of them who threw his hat into the ring in March, with a gay optimism, that belongs to the buyer of a bottom ticket, found himself in the distinguished company of great Congress l sers. But many of them retained at least their deposits. For the likes of him, the Devil may care for the Deposit chips!

Not surprising that there are no straight contests at all this time, and only two triangular contests. Four cornered contests number 41; five-cornered-64; six-cornered 50; seven-cornered-42; eight-cornered-21; and nine-cornered eight. It is enough to remember that there are even three ten-cornered contests; and one each with eleven, twelve and even thirteen corners. In an extreme case, resembling the theatre of the absurd, it is possible, academically speaking, for a candidate to lose his deposit but win his seat!

Coming to the various parties, which had set up their candidates the main contestants are: the Janata, the DMK, the AIADMK and the Congress, listed in the order of the number of candida-

(Contd. on page 7)

M. G. Ramachandran

THE LIMITLESS PLAY

S. T. KASIRAJAN

I do not know whether I am a born optimist, but I am now aggressively optimistic, come rain, come hail. This is perhaps the fruit gathered in the garden of biography, the lives of great men which I have studied since thirty years ago, I entered the portals of a college. I have read that Lincoln could boast only of a log cabin for his place of birth. I have read that Disraeli had to pawn things to satisfy the pangs of hunger and could not deliver a speech when he was aged 32. Facts like these have helped infuse a sense of optimism in me. I do not know why strange good things should not happen to me in this strange world, where I am persuaded that only good things come about. Yet do I often wonder I am not another Micawber, hoping for and not really convinced of the goodness of the creatures, human and other, that live in the world.

In this ding-dong of reality and doubt that moistens my eyes and softens my mind, my days slide smoothly away into months and years unnoticed. Imperceptibly decades pass. And thus time is spent, never to be reimbursed, and achievements are all in the future. All the instructions in self-improvement books desert me when I need them most.

I am not, however, sorry for this, for I derive solace from the fact that most great men who have lived on this wondrous planet have passed into oblivion. The solace is vicarious. But vicarious pleasure is preferable to malicious pleasure, the pursuit of pleasure for oneself. If God enjoys, as Kamban says, His limitless play, which could not be comprehended by mere human intelligence, men too have and enjoy their own play. There lies the significance of human efforts, made from many a motivation. It is all play. It is like the play of children. There may not always be reason behind the play of children. And the play indulged in by human beings is also limitless and varied and none too rational. We will not yet learn from the experience of others. We must learn from our own. And we do things and learn the hard way, pleading that the flesh is weak though the spirit is willing. Why is human nature so stupid and uneducable? Could it not be changed and metamorphosed? Are we so helpless as to do what we know we ought not to? A definite "Yes" is the answer. And it is the human answer. To try to answer "no" is to be divine which, alas, men are not, despite all the scriptures and the churches. The spark of divinity in man is to be kindled and kept alive from moment to moment, never to be taken for granted.

Let us then be human and commit our mistakes. Mistakes made are mistakes renounced. We build our earthly life on mistakes. Let us, however, remember that others are also like us when they commit mistakes. Let us be generous even as we expect generosity from others. This oils the wheels of society, making for all-round happiness, which seems to elude us when it is sought after for its own sake.

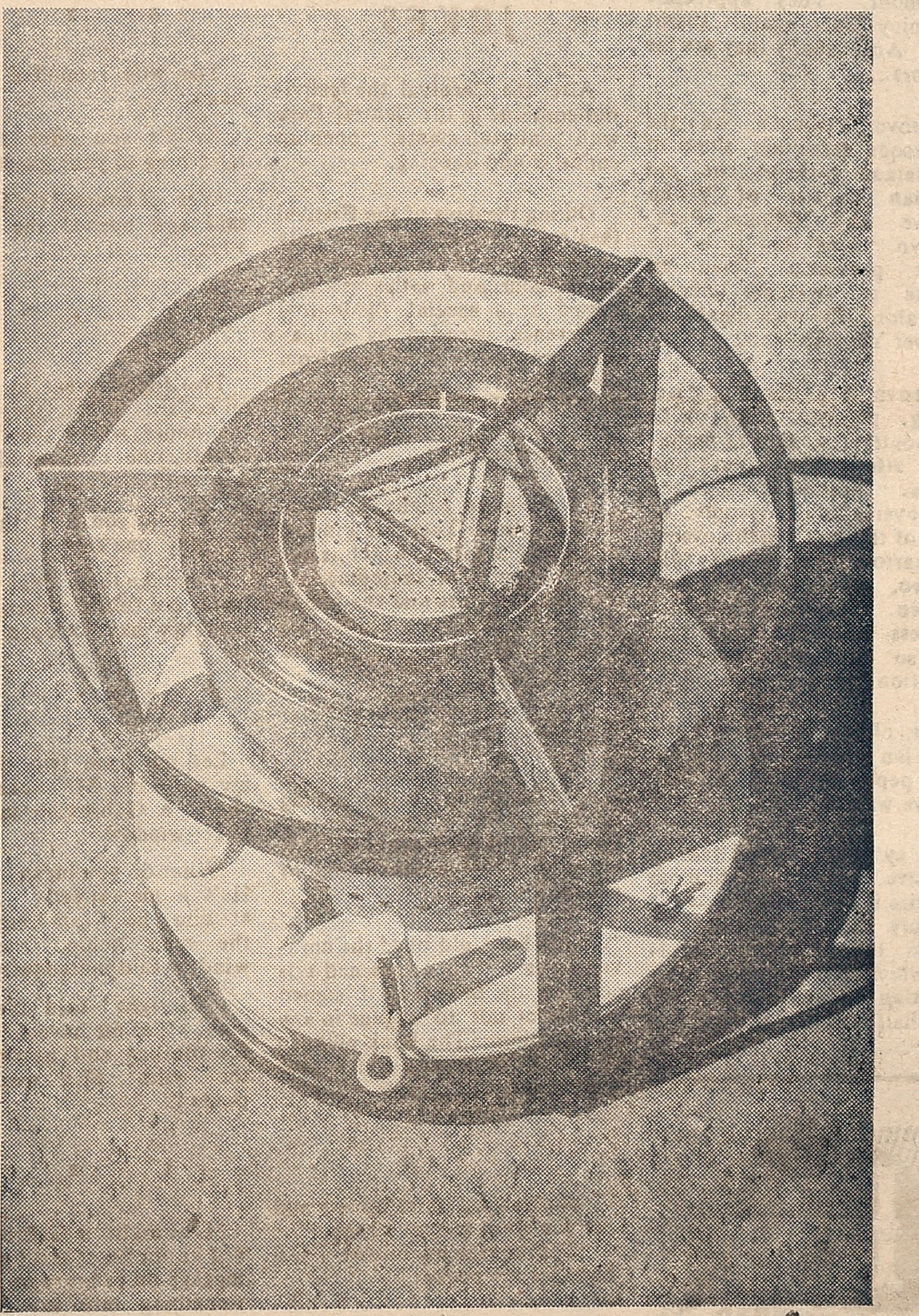
Don't forget what John Bunyan said when, while in jail, he saw a culprit being led to the gallows: "There but for the grace of God go I". Everyman would have been a culprit had he not by God's grace missed the opportunity of becoming one. He who has not God's grace and gets and takes the opportunity of committing a mistake deserves more of sympathy than of chastisement. It is more than likely we too are culprits, only unseen and uncaught.

All this meting out punishment is nothing but culprit punishing culprit, the culprit uns caught punishing the culprit caught. When Hanuman seeks her permission to destroy the *asuras* root and branch, Sita gives expression to a universal truth, "Is there any one free from faults?", and in her query-which carries within it an ever-redeeming answer-lies the light for all of us to live by. It is a solace to sinners and a warning to saints.

The theory of predestination comes handy: men are born to commit mistakes. But this theory, as most theories propounded by human beings, is born out of the human proclivity to find out a scapegoat for what it does. Yet I am fond of this theory. It salvages my sagging morale when I go wrong. But I can not get sustained sustenance from theories like this. I am in the see-saw of doubt and reality, doubt assailing and reality eluding me. I try to grope my way through darkness, whistling myself a verse from Longfellow:

"Let us then be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing
Learn to labour and to wait."

Courtesy: **Swarajya**



The Indian Oil Corporation has introduced on the market a new kerosense Stove "NUTAN", which is the product of their extensive research to perfect a wick stove which was safe, efficient and economical.

They have succeeded in the innovation, and the "NUTAN" saves considerable fuel when compared to other makes in the market at present. Apart from the immediate benefit to the housewife, the country would save about 3 lakh kilo litres of kerosene annually, resulting in conserving Rs. 30 crores in foreign exchange.

He Who Laughs Thinks No Evil

To ask a Bulgarian if he has ever heard Gabrovian jokes is like apart from an affirmative reply, you would probably be offered a joke or two by way of samples.

Why Gabrovian jokes? Because they originate from the town of Gabrovo. 'Originate' is the right word. They are not only about Gabrovo and Gabrovians, about their thrift, cunning, meanness, stinginess, enterprises, caution, wit, ingenuity, industriousness friendliness and hospitality, they are also 'Made in Gabrovo'. This, more than anything else; is characteristic of the Gabrovians' special sense of humour. They appreciate and enjoy jokes against themselves. And usually they are the inventors...

Gabrovo stands on the picturesque mountain slope of the Balkan between the old Bulgarian capital of Veliko Turnove and Shipka Peak. Gabrovo claims that it is the longest provincial town in Bulgaria it stretches unhampered along the two banks of the River Yantra.

Gabrovo is a thriving, fast-growing, pleasant town with wide boulevards, parks, monuments, attractive buildings and suburbs. Nothing is left of the past poverty of its people, of slums, of the dust which covered the narrow streets of old Gabrovo. All this is gone and forgotten. However the industriousness and the enterprising spirit so characteristic of its population have not gone.

Then, of course, there is the Gabrovian sense of humour. These peple are born with it, they live with it.

In May every second year an impressive festival of humour and satire is held in Gabrovo—the only one of its kind in Europe. It opens with a Carnival in which half of the town's population takes part. The other half, along with guests and tourists, look on from roof-tops, windows and pavements.

The Carnival starts off with tail being clipped off from a huge model of a black cat. Then comes the procession, which days and weeks after the Carnival will be the talk of the town. The spectators see representations of well known Gabrovian jokes, satirical sketches, singing and dancing and laughing people in gay costumes and amusing masks.

* * *

GABROVO JOKES

After the Carnival the festivities continue in the Central Park with entertainments, open-air concerts and dancing.

During the days of the Festival theatres and cinemas show only comic films and plays. Questions of Humour and satire are discussed at a special theoretical conference, attended by Bulgarian humourists and guests from abroad. After about a week the Festival ends with comic games and competitions at the town's stadium.

All Bulgaria laughs at Gabrovian jokes. They are kind of a nati nal treasure which is not locked in safes or museums. It lives in the hearts and the minds of the people. All enjoy this treasure, but the Gabrovians are its guardians.

x x x

A Gabrovian began selling corn in front of the National Bank. An acquaintance of his asked him for a small loan of money.

'Look here, old boy,' the corn-vender said, "when I opened this counter, the Bank and I signed a contract not to engage in any competition. The Bank pledged not to sell any corn, and I—not lend money."

x x x

'You've got three houses and yet you want to rent a room?"

"The rent for my houses is too high for my pocket."

x x x

'What are you doing in the street on such a cold day?'

'I dropped a bottle of brandy and now I'm waiting for the liquid to freeze and take it home.

A shop-owner, fed up with life decided to hang himself. His assistant, however, saw him in time and cut down the rope.

At the end of the month the shop-owner paid him his salary minus four levs—the price of the rope.

In order to save money a Gabrovian began to repair the roof of his house himself. Lacking experience, he slipped and fell from the roof. While he was falling by the kitchen-window, he managed to yell to his wife:

Don't cook lunch for me today!'

x x x

The wife reminded her husband:

'Won't you offer something refreshing to your guests?'

'Yes, of course,' the Gabrovian said and opened the windows wide.

x x x

Two friends went to Gabrovo on a visit. When they reached the house where they expected to stay, one of them kicked the door with his foot.

'Why do you kick the door?' the other one asked.

'To make them think that our hands are full of presents, otherwise they may not open it.'

x x x

Let me have two tickets for my wife and half ticket for the child,' a Gabrovian said at the ticket-window.

'What do you mean, a child?' He's a man already Just look at him, he wears long pants!' the man behind the ticket-window said indignantly.

"All right,' said the Gabrovian, 'Let me have a full ticket for the boy and half-ticket for the wife. She wears short pants!"

x x x

'Last night a Gabrovian arrived at our hotel and I carried his luggage up to his room. He put something into my hand and said: 'This is for a cup of coffee.'

'Well, how much money did he give you?'

'Who said money? Only a lump of sugar.'

— News from BULGARIA

CLEAR

"Why are you cleaning the inside of the windows but not the outside?"

"I'm doing it so that I can look out but the people outside can't look in."

* * *

SALES TALK

The peddler knocked at the door and started his sales talk with the statement, "I'm out scratching for a living"

"Sorry, but I don't itch," vowed the woman of the house as she slammed the door.

x x x

DRESS

Gladys: "The Doctors now say that lowneck dresses help women ward off colds and pneumonia."

Dinocan: "Well, I was at a swell restaurant last night where all the girls seemed to be trying to watd off lumbago as well."

* * *

ACID COMMENT

An executive arrived at his office one morning with a black eye.

"My little niece gave it me with a left hook." he explained to his secretary.

"How silly of you to let a little girl play with a hook," was the serious reply.

* * *

VISION

"The cold weather is affecting my wife's eyesight."

"Sorry to hear that, old man."

"So am I; she has visions of fur coats."

Return Of The Peregrine Falcon

One of the swiftest birds in the world, the peregrine falcon, may survive extinction in North America if an imaginative experiment works, Acting Environment Minister Romeo LeBlanc announced recently.

The Canadian Wildlife Service has had success in breeding in captivity *peregrinus anatum*, the most endangered of three sub-species found in North merica, Most of the 41 young birds produced this year have been set free in various urban, rural, and emote places in Canada where the species formerly existed.

"These releases are primarily experimental, to develop techniques for re-introduction," said Richard Fyfe, the CWS biologist who has led this effort to save the peregrines in Canada. "The young birds will run heavy risks as they learn to fly and hunt on their own"

The Canadian Wildlife Service plans to continue releasing captive-raised young peregrines into the wild in the hope that some will survive and begin to breed.

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Health and Recreation

There has been a vast expansion of health and recreational facilities in the country. The Primary Health Centres which form the basic integral structure of our basic medicine system have been strengthened. Similarly, the number of sub-centres in the country has also gone up. The national programme of protected water supply and sanitation has benefited rural and urban areas. Killers like malaria, cholera and T. B. have been controlled. Small-pox has been totally eradicated.

In primary and middle schools recreational activities have been provided for the children. Children are the nation's wealth and new measures are aimed at their healthy growth. In most schools regular medical check-ups, dental-care measures and preventive steps have benefited millions of children. Diagnostic facilities have also been provided. The children are vaccinated at regular intervals against communicable diseases.

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Poultry Farming Popular

Pithbaragarh region in UP has undergone a steady transformation. The villagers are taking to poultry farming as a source of livelihood. In 1961 there was only one extension centre with 200 birds to breed. It was housed in a temporary fencing attached to a single room tenement. Eggs were supplied to poultry keepers for hatching.

In a span of 6 years, the centre has become a full-fledged poultry farming centre. It had 500 birds run by a single incubator operated by kerosene oil. With the increasing demand for chicks and poultry-birds, the strength of laying birds were raised to 700. There are two electric incubators of 2500 capacity each.

★

Muscovite's Diary

Ivan Ivanov

A New Constitution For Soviet People

You must be already aware from the reports in the papers that the Soviet Union is going to have a new Constitution. This will replace the one which has been in existence in our country for the past four decades.

In this connection, I would recall here that the Plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union which was held in Moscow the other day, heard a report by the General Secretary of the CPSU CC Leonid Brezhnev, who is also the Chairman of the Constitutional Commission, "on the Draft Costitution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic".

As pointed out by Leonid Brezhnev, then in his report when the Draft was being prepared, full account has been taken of the principles of our country's development, that were formulated by V. I. Lenin, of the provisions of the former constitutions of the Soviet State and also of the numerous new legislative acts that have been adopted in recent years and regulate various fields of social relations in the USSR.

To quote Leonid Brezhev: "The adaptation of the new Constitution of the USSR will become an important milestone in our country's political history. It will become yet another historic contribution of our Leninist Party, our Socialist State, the entire Soviet people of the great cause of Communist construction and, at the same time, to the internationalist cause of struggle by the working people of the whole world for freedom, for progress of mankind, for lasting peace on the earth".

Now, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet which met in Kremlin on May 28, has adopted a decree which endorses in the main the draft constitution (Fundamental Law) of the USSR, submitted by the Constitutional Commission, and brings it up for countrywide discussions.

To consider the draft constitution of the country, the Presidium has deemed it expedient to convene an extraordinary session of the USSR Supreme Soviet in October 1977.

How Many Students Are There in The USSR?

The student body of the USSR is bigger than that of all the capitalist countries of Europe together. In 1976 the output of specialists with a higher education increased 60 times compared to the pre-revolutionary level.

Quoting these figures, PRAVDA recalls that nearly three-quarters of pre-revolutionary Russia's population, aged between 9 and 49, was illiterate. Out of a hundred men — 60, and out of a hundred women — 83 could neither read nor write: Many peoples of the then outlying provinces of tsarist Russia did not even have a script of their own. Four out of every five children had no opportunity to get any schooling.

Today every third citizen of the country studies. Over 126 million people have higher and secondary (complete or incomplete) education. The Soviet Union has 162,000 general education schools and secondary technical-vocational schools catering for 48 million people, where instruction is given by nearly three million teachers. The country has 4,300 technical and other specialised secondary schools. Between 1918 and 1976 they have trained 21,500,060 specialists.

* * *

Indian Awards To Soviet Children Presented

At an impressive ceremony held at Moscow's Friendship House the other day, those Soviet children who had won 2 gold and 9 silver medals at the International Children's Drawing competition organised by the Indian magazine "Shanker's Weekly" in 1975, in India, were given the Awards.

It may be recalled that the jury had announced the results of the competition early this year.

Mr. Inder Kumar Gujral, the Indian Ambassador to the USSR, who presented the prizes, said: "The mutual striving of our children to get to know more about each other's life shows that the friendly relations between the Soviet Union and India rest on a solid foundation".

Laya Rathnakara, Mridanga Samrat, Kalaimamani, Madras A. Kannan celebrated the marriage of his daughter 'Bharatha Natya Selvi' Kothanayaki with B. Narayanamoorthy, (Indian Overseas Bank, Madras) recently at Madras. The marriage in the morning and the reception in the evening were attended by the elite of the city. His Holiness Sri Sankaracharya of Sri Kanchi Kamakotti Mutt, the great violin wizard Yahudi Menuhin, ·cting President Jatti and a host of well wishers sent their greetings.

Changing Tendency

By P. B. SREENIVOS
Cine Play-back artiste

Winds of Time change the map of the world,
Changes shape in the lap of the world!
Yesterday was new, to-day it is old,
To-day becomes old in Tomorrow's fold!!

Nothing can enjoy permanency,
New things sprout from emergency!
Permanency is but a sweet fancy
Nature has a changing tendency!!

Countless crowns had left their thrones,
When people expressed their sad groans!
In the floods of time anyone drowns,
New heads wear these time-worn crowns!!

Tricks of politics can't cheat Time,
One has to pay for one's own crime!
Intelligence may pay for a while,
Fight with time is not worth-while!!

Kingdoms have come and kingdoms gone,
Queendoms too, for a while, had shone!
Time doesn't care for a king or queen,
None can think of a rule ever-green!!

Spring brings, no doubt, happy days,
But soon Autumn shows its face!
Faces of Nature face disgrace
Seasons are caught in a wild race!!

God too wanted a change from Bliss,
Charms of Change He didn't want to miss!
Creation, Growth and Destruction,
All have to follow His instruction!!!

From page 2

Pre-Election Scene In...

tes set up by each of them. It does not represent the order of their real strength of o ganisation, or the prospect of their possible number of seats.

JANATA PROMISES

The Janata claims precedence as a national party and as the party in power at the Centre. Its performance in the Lok Sabha poll however, was far from being impressive. Out of the 18 seats contested, it could win only three. Even in terms of votes, the Janata-DMK-CPM

P. Ramachandran

combination had only a slight edge over the rival combine of AIADMK-Congress-CPI only in 3ɔ Assembly segments. Its position now may be slightly better, but not very much better so as to convert the defeat into a victory. Freedom from alliance with DMK may be something of an asset, a negative one, but not the loss of CPM as an ally. For all practical purposes, the hard core of Janata is formed only by the residue of Congres (O), after the defections to Indira Congress. The SSP and the Jan Sangh had only a nominal existence in Tamil Nadu. Swatantra had a limited base, because of Rajaji's presence.

The delegation of the articulate Dr. Subrahmanya Swami as convener of the Janata's campaign has certainly given it some pep and press publicity, if not dynamism on a major scale. His gift of the gab is not likely to go much beyond the literate and can hardly be a match to the mass appeal of the screen hero MGR. He has certainly spelled out the electoral objectives of Janata with clarity and effect: (1) generation of employment through 20,000 new small industries; (2) Development of fisheries; (3) Linking of the Cauvery with the Krishna and the Godavari; and (4) the tapping of ground wa er and sea water resources, among other things. A number of central Ministers are visiting Tamil Nadu to take part in the campaign and Mr. Morarji Desai is scheduled to make a second visit. With all this, the Janata has not yet made a mark on the electorate in the countryside. It may do a little better in the cities. Forty to fifty seats are the utmost that can be predicted for it.

Its erstwhile ally the DMK, is in quite an unenviable position. While many from its active middle cadre had gone over to the AI-ADMK the Sarkaria Commission's findings had badly besmirched its image. The latest rebellion in its ranks, leading to the formation of another break-away group under the name 'Makkal DMK' by Mr. V.R. Nedunchezhian and others, who are supporting AIADMK now is yet another blow to its strength. It, however still has its basic organisation intact and the leader, Mr. Karunanidhi, retains something of his old charisma. Not more than 25 to 30 sea s are predicted for it, according to one estimate, though it is contesting almost all the seats.

The Congress is in quite a disarray, because of the divided leadership, and the general demoralisation, following the stunning defeat in the North. It had shone in a sort of reflected glory in the company of AIADMK in the March elections. Having now to stand alone, in the dubious company of CPI (in the marriage of convenience, with quite a few mental reservations), it may not be able to put up a good fight, under the leadership of Mr. C. Subramaniam and Mr. Karuppiah Moopanar, neither of whom is a great vote-getter.

MGR'S IMAGE

The popularity of AIADMK, based mainly on the screen image of its leader, MGR, has not waned a bit during the last few months. On the other hand it seems to be growing apace, if the mass gatherings that greet his arrival in the mofussil areas be any guide. In the March poll, the AIADMK has had a clear majority of 10,000 to 15,000 votes over the rival alliance in as many as 170 Assembly segments. MGR has promised the people a clean government, if his party is returned to power. His numerous fans are

G. K. Moopanar

sure to believe his words. He is after all their hero, and benefactor, the veritable Robinhood, who is out to rob the rich to feed the poor. If the educated voters in the metropolis and elsewhere feel that his is a one-man party and that it has no positive programme, economic or other, they can make a difference of only about 40 to 50 seats. Out of the nearly 200 seats contested, AIADMK may run away with at least 150, which is 30 more than the absolute majority.

Leaders of the Janata are certainly able to score a few talking points over the AIADMK leader: How can he fight corruption with 17 candidates from the ranks of the most corrupt of ex-DMK MLAs, against whom charges are pending? Does a regional party become an All-India party, simply because it chooses to call itself so? What is the economic content of the AIADMK's manifesto? These and such other questions mean little to the hero-worshippers of MGR. The Janata's campaign leader has claimed only the AIADMK as his party's real rival. But somehow the message of Janata has not yet reached the remotest corners of Tamil Nadu. Nor is the Janata Wave whose impact may be less fierce than in March, likely to sweep the countryside in June either. Unless, of course, a miracle happens, meanwhile!

Prize For Idikki Dam Construction

The Montreal firm of Surveyer, Nenninger and Chenevert (SNC Incorporated) won the 1976 prize for excellence for its civil engineering work in the construction of the Idikki dam in India.

The prize was awarded by the magazine Canadian Consulting Engineer and the Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada.

The dam, high in the ranges of Kerala State, is Asia's largest high arch dam, and is part of a three-dam hydroelectric and irrigation project.

The powerhouse produces 780 megawatts of power, boosting the state's power supply by 150 per cent. Canada contributed to the project by making available more than $20 million in grants and loans for the construction of the Idikki dam.

—

Bitter Coffee

When the Secretary to a Chicago lawyer was told by her boss in writing that henceforth she would be responsible for making his coffee, she refused, the more so as there was nothing to that effect in her labour agreement, and she doesn't drink the beverage herself. Came another written notice in reply: "Unless you make the coffee, you can consider yourself fired".

Tropical Protein Farms

Stuttgart inventor Nikolaus Laing plans to moor artifical islands in tropical waters to run as solar-powered protein farms. A prototype solar farm is already converting deep sea water into plankton into protein-rich mussels off the Virgin Islands in the Caribbean. And Laing also envisages harnessing solar energy to run offshore islands with a threefold output: edible protein, desalinated water and electric power.

The artificial islands consists of lengths of plastic fifty centimeters in width laid side by side and crisscrossed by tubes. The surface of what resembles nothing so much as a jumbo-sized straw mat is coated in a substance that converted sunlight into photoelectric power. • This is converted into three-phase curren t used to power seabed pumps that pump deep-sea water rich in nutrient to the surface where it is heated in the network of tubes before being transferred to pools where phytoplankton flourish.

Plankton form the staple diet of *tapes semidecussata*, a fast-breeding, protein-rich edible mussel. In trials off the Virgin Islands 31 grams of plankton grow in sixteen hours from the nutrient contents of one cubic metre of deep-sea water. The 31 grams of plankton are converted to twenty grams of mussel, including ten grams of meat. By way of comparison a battery-fed chicken pecks its way through nineteen kilograms of fodder before reaching a marketable weight of 2.2 kilograms.

You might feel that protein farms along these lines provide sufficient food for thought, but Nikolaus Laing has plans which are much more ambitious. An artificial island clad in solar cells, he claims, could heat the water underneath to 175°C (347°F). This water could be used indirectly to power steam turbines and generate electricity, thereupon condensing to form desalinated water for domestic, agricultural and industrial use.

If the artificial island were large enough and moored in waters where sunlight is a readily available commodity solar energy could, Nikolaus Laing maintains, be converted into virtually unlimited amounts of electric power. The Stuttgart inventor reckons a 1,000-megawatt unit producing electric power, desalinated water and edible protein would cost no more to construct than a nuclear power station of similar size.

—*Wolfgang Biltermann*

—:o:—

COMMON

A certain Mr. And Mrs. were on the pan, being sizzled to a crisp by the people at the party. "Oh her—I' remarked one of the women. "Why, she'd spend her last anna on a dress."

"Well," commented one of the men, "that gives them something in common. Because he'd spend his last rupee on a skirt."

Newcomer Arul Bharathi

Arul Bharathi is a charming young lady from Karnataka with high hopes of becoming a top star in Tamil films. She has the figure and talent, needed to reach the top of the ladder. She has a bright future ahead of her.

She has acting experience. Before coming to Madras she has acted in a number of Kannada films and earned a name. "Eradu Kanasu", "Beluvalatha Madillali", "Vedanta", "Balabatta", are some of the films she has acted.

She is not new to the Tamil films. She has acted in some Tamil films also, such as MGR's "Pallandu Vazgha" and "Idayakkani"

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Film And Television Library

An international film and television library boasting close to 7,000 volumes in several languages on the movies, television, theatre and show business in general has been inaugurate at Rimini, the Adriatic sea resort Italy.

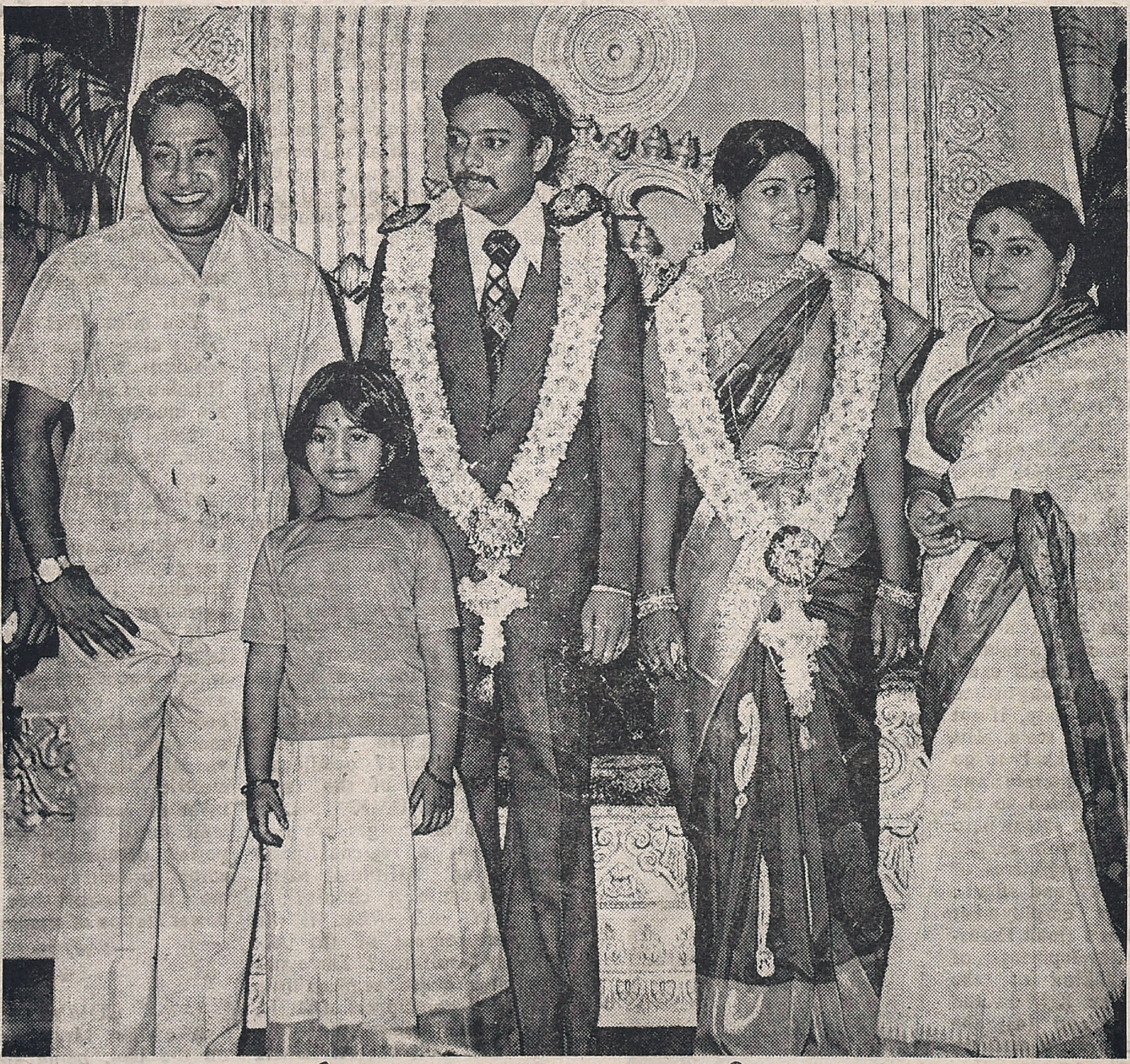
The library has announced plans to organize cultural events for the millions of tourist converging each year on the beach city.

A photographic, newspaper and periodical library has also been set up here, the first of its kind on the Adriatic riviera of Italy.

Nearby Riccione has the "Filmclub" Cultural Film Library. which like the library in Rimini and a number of other organizations, stems from the Centre of Cinema and Television Studies (CSCTY) founded and headed by Diretor Jose Pantieri.

The Riccioni "Filmclub" which has a number of rare and singular film copies printed by hand at the beginning of the century, has recently announced the discovery a new group of valuable historic prints.

Among the newly-discovered titles were "The Bold Soldier" (Aquila Film, 1913), "The Fiat Maid' (Ambrosio Film, 1912), "The Implacable" (1915) with Isalia Almirante Manzini, "Carnevalesca" (1917 with Lyda Borelli, "Messalina" (1923) with Rina De Liguoro, "The Unknown Father" with Emilio Ghione and a number of primitive film comedies starring such names as Ferdinando Guillaume (alias "Polidor"), Max Linder, Jimmi Aubrey, Larry Semon and Mack Sennett.



The Silver Jubilee hero Nadikarthilakam Sivaji Ganesan celebrated the marriage of his second daughter Selvi Thenmozhi with Selvan Govindaraj, a student of medicine, at Abbotsbury, Madras, recently. Picture shows Sivaji Ganesan, his wife and grand daughter Vijayalakshmi with the newly wed couple.

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